

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A Method method for protecting a portable object against denial of service type attacks, said portable object comprising a memory where at least one credential is stored, each credential being associated with a service, the method comprising comprises the steps of:~~

verifying that an [[the]] entity requesting [[a]] the service is an authorized entity for accessing the service, based on an algorithm involving the at least one credential, delivering the requested service only when the verification step succeeds[[ed]], blocking the at least one credential associated with the service after a certain number of verification steps fail[[ed]], and  
~~wherein, when if the verification step fails[[ed]], the method further comprises the steps of:~~  
waiting during for a waiting duration before allowing a new verification step.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The Method method for protecting a portable object against denial of service type attacks as recited in claim 1, wherein the waiting duration is constant for each failed verification step.~~
3. (Currently Amended) ~~The Method method for protecting a portable object against denial of service type attacks as recited in claim 1, wherein the waiting duration is variable for each failed verification step.~~
4. (Currently Amended) ~~The Method method for protecting a portable object against denial of service type attacks as recited in claim 1 one of the previous claims, wherein the waiting duration is equal to zero for a first predetermined number of failed verification steps, and the waiting duration is greater than zero for a second predetermined number of failed verification steps.~~

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The Method method for protecting a portable object against denial of service type attacks as recited in claim 1 one of the previous claims, wherein the method step of waiting during a duration is resumed prior to the waiting duration elapsing if in case said step is interrupted before the duration has elapsed.~~
6. (Currently Amended) ~~The Method method for protecting a portable object against denial of service type attacks as recited in claim 1, wherein said the at least one credential is one selected from the group consisting of a personal identification number, [[or]] a key, and [[or]] a code.~~
7. (Currently Amended) ~~The Method method for protecting a portable object against denial of service type attacks as recited in claim 1, wherein said the entity is at least one selected from the group consisting of a user, [[or]] a terminal, [[or]] a server, and [[or]] an application.~~
8. (Currently Amended) ~~The Method method for protecting a portable object against denial of service type attacks as recited in claim 1 further comprising one of the previous claims, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:~~

decrementing a counter associated with the at least one credential each time [[a]] ~~the verification step is performed, said counter having values ranging between an initial value and a credential blocking value,~~

resetting the counter[[s]] to the initial value when the verification step succeeds, and, ~~if when the counter has reaches[[d]] an intermediate value, the method further comprises the steps of:~~

waiting ~~for during a the waiting~~ duration when verification step fails[[ed]],

blocking the ~~at least one~~ credential when the counter reaches the credential blocking value,  
wherein the intermediate value is between the initial value and the credential blocking value.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The Method method for protecting a portable object against denial of service type attacks as recited in claim 1 one of the claims 1 to 7, wherein the method further comprises the steps of further comprising:~~

decrementing a first counter associated with the at least one credential each time [[a]] ~~the verification step is performed, said the first counter having values ranging between a first initial value and an intermediate value,~~

and, when the first counter has reaches[[d]] the intermediate value, ~~the method further comprises the steps of:~~

decrementing a second counter associated with the first counter, ~~said the second counter having values ranging between a second initial value and a credential blocking value,~~

resetting the first counter to the first initial value and the second counter to the second initial value ~~if when verification step succeeds,~~

waiting during a duration ~~if when verification step fails[[ed]], and~~

blocking the credential ~~if when the second counter reaches the credential blocking value.~~

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The Method method for protecting a portable object against denial of service type attacks as recited in one of the previous claims as recited in claim 1, wherein, when verification step failed, waiting during the duration the step of waiting during a determined duration is implemented by a comprises using a waiting loop mechanism.~~

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The Method method for protecting a portable object against denial of service type attacks as recited in claim 8, wherein the decrementing step of the counter or the first counter or the second counter are is performed before the verification step.~~

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The Method method for protecting a portable object against denial of service type attacks as recited in claim 8, wherein the decrementing step of the counter or the first counter or the second counter are is performed after the verification step.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A Portable portable object comprising, in particular a smart card, comprises:

- a memory wherein at least one credential is stored, each wherein the at least one credential being is associated with a service, the at least one said credential being is used to verify that the an entity requesting [[a]] the service is an authorized entity for accessing the service,
- a counter associated with the at least one credential which is decremented each time a verification that the entity requesting [[a]] the service is [[an]] the authorized entity for accessing the service fails[[ed]], said the counter having values ranging between an initial value and a credential blocking value, said the counter being reset to the initial value when verification succeeds, and
  - wherein said the portable object further comprises:
  - a waiting loop mechanism which is activated when the counter has reached a intermediate value and each time [[a]] the verification fails[[ed]].

14. (Currently Amended) The Portable portable object, as recited in claim 13 the previous claim, wherein the counter comprises a first counter and a second counter, the first counter associated with the at least one credential being decremented each time the [[a]] verification that the entity requesting the [[a]] service is the [[an]] authorized entity for accessing the service fails[[ed]], said the first counter having values ranging between a first initial value and [[an]] the intermediate value, the second counter being decremented when the first counter has reached the intermediate value and each time the [[a]] verification that the entity requesting the [[a]] service is the [[an]] authorized entity for accessing the service fails[[ed]], the said second counter having values ranging between a second initial value and a credential blocking value.

15. (Currently Amended) The Portable portable object, as recited in claim 13 one of the claims 13 to 14, wherein the waiting loop mechanism comprises a loop flag used to resume the step of waiting during [[a]] the duration if the portable object is performed by the waiting loop mechanism in case said step is interrupted before the duration has elapsed.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium, having thereon computer program code means, when said program is loaded into the memory of the portable object, to make the portable object execute the method for protecting said portable object against denial of service type attacks as recited in claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 12.~~